



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**Contact: Jim Cross**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**

1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**

444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**

500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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Dec. 30, 2004

### TOPEKA GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that seven individuals were indicted on Dec. 29, 2004 by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kan. Those indicted include:

**Epigmenio Suastegui-Nunez**, 43, Hyrum, Utah, and **Colleen Renee Melano**, 41, Salt Lake City, Utah, who are charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute seven pounds of methamphetamine and one count of conspiracy to distribute seven pounds of methamphetamine. The crime is alleged to have occurred on Dec. 24, 2004 in Shawnee County.

If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of not less than 10 years in federal prison and not more than life, and a fine of up to \$4 million on each count. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown is prosecuting.

**Michael Kevin Sheahon**, 47, Salina, Kan., who is charged with four counts of failure to file income tax returns for calendar years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.

If convicted, he faces up to one year in federal prison on each count and a \$25,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough is prosecuting.

**James E. Patton, Jr.**, 30, who is in federal custody, is charged with one count of interstate transportation of stolen property and one count of credit card fraud.

Patton made an initial appearance Dec. 20 in U.S. District Court in Wichita on a complaint and affidavit filed with the court by a special agent of the U.S. Secret Service

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assigned to Wichita. This indictment is based on the same set of facts set out in the agent's affidavit.

According to the indictment, Patton rented an automobile from Hertz Rental in Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 21, 2004 and paid for it with a stolen credit card. He drove the car to Kansas, where he later was arrested. The indictment also alleges that Patton fraudulently used three separate credit cards to pay for the car rental, a charter airplane flight, lodging and phone services.

If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. The U.S. Marshal Service and the U.S. Secret Service investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger is prosecuting.

**Juan Martinez-Macias**, who is not a United States citizen, is charged with one count of illegally reentering the United States after having been deported in June 1999 following a conviction on an aggravated felony charge. He was found in the United States on Dec. 10, 2004 in Kansas City, Kan.

If convicted he faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

**Luis Chavira-Juarez**, 27, who is not a United States citizen, is charged with one count of illegally reentering the United States after having been deported in April 2004 following a conviction on an aggravated felony charge. He was found in the United States on Nov. 24, 2004 in Kansas City, Kan.

If convicted he faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

**Trelonda Brown**, 31, Topeka, Kan., is charged with two counts of making false statements to the Topeka Housing Authority and one count of receiving \$10,017 in rental subsidies to which she was not entitled.

If convicted, she faces up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on the charges of making false statements and up to 10 years and a \$250,000 fine on the embezzlement charge.

The case was investigated by Housing and Urban Development. Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown is prosecuting.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.